

PLATE XXVI.

MONOGRAPH OF THE GENUS *MASTAX*, BELONGING TO THE FAMILY OF THE TRUE LOCUSTS.

THE insects of the genus *Mastax*, of Perty, illustrate a peculiarity in Entomo-geography, which does not appear to me to have been sufficiently noticed, namely, the occurrence of species belonging to aberrant and anomalous genera, in very distant localities, often indeed in different quarters, of the globe. The Mole-crickets offer a striking instance of this peculiarity. The genus is very anomalous in many of its characters, yet we find species in each of the five continents (including New Holland). The two species of *Mastax* hitherto described (from unique individuals), are natives of the New World, whilst the three additional ones represented in the accompanying plate, are natives of the Islands of the Indian Archipelago.

The genus (in addition to the great rarity of the species) is especially interesting on account of various structural peculiarities. The fore wings are in some species quite hyaline and almost colourless, which gives the insects an appearance quite unlike the rest of the family. The head is very much elevated above the level of the prothorax. The antennæ are composed of very few joints; the three ocelli are placed between the eyes; the palpi are very short; the three sternums are simple, the hind-legs long, the tarsi 3-jointed, with a moderate sized pulvillus between the ungues. The anal appendages in *M. mutilata* are described by Serville as “courts et droits,” but in the males of *M. apicalis* and *M. guttata* they are dilated and contorted in a singular manner quite unlike any of the rest of the family.

As to the natural relations of the genus, Burmeister (who however had not seen it in nature) places it between *Gomphocerus* and *Ommexecha*, whilst Serville (who had two species before him) introduces it (with several other curious genera) between *Gomphocerus* and *Tetrix*. It appears to me, however, much more closely allied to *Proscopia* of Klug, with which it agrees in the elevated head and short few-jointed antennæ.

SPECIES I.—*Mastax virescens*, Perty (Del. An. Art. Bras. t. 24, f. 3. Serville H. n. Ins. Orth. p. 751. Burma. Handb. d. Ent. 2, p. 653). Virescens, seu fuscus, facie et pedibus testaceis, elytris et alis diaphanis. Long. fere 10 liu. (teste Serv.) Brazil.

SPECIES II.—*Mastax mutilata*, Serv. Ins. Orth. p. 751. Lævis glaber, brunneus, facie antice ochracea, prothoracis lateribus fulvis, tegminibus fere, alisque omnino, obsoletis, abdominis segmentis 6 et 7 fulvis, ♂. Long. lin. 5 (teste Serv.). Colombia.

SPECIES III.—*Mastax apicalis*, Westw.† (Plate 26, fig. 1). Luteus, capite supra, thoracis et abdominis dorso nigricantibus, hoc fascia pone medium apiceque extremo luteis, pedibus luteis nigro-maculatis, tegminibus et alis hyalinis ad apicem tenuiter fusco coloratis ♂.

(Plate 26, fig. 1 a, head seen in front; 1 b, extremity of abdomen seen from the side; 1 c, the same seen from below; 1 d, natural length.)

Long. corp. unc. $\frac{3}{4}$. Expans. tegmin. unc. $1\frac{3}{4}$. Sumatra; Sir S. Raffles. Mus. Zool. Soc. London.

SPECIES IV.—*Mastax vitrea*, Westw. (Plate 26, fig. 2). Fuscus, facie fulvescente, abdomine in medio pallidiori, pedibus fuscis, femoribus posticis pallidius fasciatis; tegminibus et alis hyalinis parum infumatis. ♀

Plate 26, fig. 2 a, apex of abdomen seen sideways; 2 b, natural length.

Long. corp. unc. 1. Expans. tegmin. unc. $1\frac{1}{2}$. Java, Mus. Hope.

SPECIES V.—*Mastax guttata*, Westw. (Plate 26, fig. 3.) Nigricans, subtus paullo pallidior facie genisque luteis, vertice angulato, abdomine ♂ ad apicem valde inflato; femoribus posticis fulvo oblique bifasciatis, tegminibus fuscis nitidis, guttis duabus versus apicem hyalinis, postica majori et ad marginem posticum extensa; alis hyalinis margine postico fusco. ♂

Plate 26, fig. 3 a, natural size; 3 b, antenna; 3 c, head and prothorax seen sideways; 3 d, head seen in front; 3 e, apex of abdomen seen from beneath; 3 f, ditto seen laterally.

Long. corp. lin. 7. Expans. tegm. lin. $14\frac{1}{2}$. Sumatra, Sir S. Raffles, Mus. Zool. Soc. Lond.; and Philippine Islands, H. Cumiug, Esq. Mus. Brit.

The curious plant figured is the *Stapelia adscendens* of Roxburgh: Plants of Coromandel, vol. i, pl. 30.